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SUBJECT: CYPRUS SUPPORTS "SMART SANCTIONS" AGAINST BURMA

REF: SECSTATE 146862

¶1. Per reftel, PolOff October 21 met with Nikos Panayi, a counselor in the Multilateral Affairs division of the Cypriot MFA. Panayi stated that Cyprus, like the broader European Union, supports "smart sanctions" against Burma. He noted that EU foreign ministers already have approved sanctions against the Burmese generals on exports of jade, rubies and teak. In doing so, the EU is sending a stern warning to Rangoon, and will be "closely monitoring" the situation in the short-term. Further, the EU is coordinating its efforts with the United States, China, and the ASEAN nations, and supports UN Special Envoy Gambari's mission in Burma.

¶2. Regarding the political situation in Burma, Panayi noted that the EU wants change, not the status quo ante. Brussels is eager to promote greater inclusion of all factions there, including the National League of Democracy, and supports efforts to speed the pace of democratic reforms.

SCHLICHER